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## Media Release

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### Department of Justice recognized for support of employees who serve in the National Guard

**Wilmington** – New Castle County Chief Prosecutor Josette Manning has been honored with a Patriot Award from the Delaware Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) agency of the United States Department of Defense. ESGR volunteer Judy Zaal presented Manning with the award last week in recognition of extraordinary support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

“Josette’s receipt of this award is a fitting recognition of her strong support for her staff, both when they are home and when they are away serving our nation,” Attorney General Beau Biden said. “Because of the dedication of supervisors like Josette, members of the Guard and Reserve who work at the Delaware Department of Justice are able to meet the unique challenges of the citizen soldier.”

Recipients of the Patriot Award are nominated by employees of the Guard and Reserve and Manning was nominated by Deputy Attorney General Robert Surles, who also serves in the Delaware Army National Guard. His nomination stated that Josette and fellow Department of Justice employees are highly supportive of service in the armed forces and that the employer goes above and beyond requirements to continue salary and benefits during mobilizations, notably keeping in touch with the family of service members. During the award presentation, Surles spoke eloquently of the support, cooperation and integrity displayed by Manning and fellow employees toward his own military service and previous deployments. Manning accepted the award on behalf of the entire staff for their collective support of the Department’s military employees.

According to Christine Kubik, Delaware ESGR Executive Director, “the Patriot Award was created to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before them, have answered their nation’s call to serve. Supportive supervisors are critical to maintaining the strength and readiness of our nation’s Guard and Reserve units.”

In addition to the award presentation, during the ceremony Attorney General Biden signed ESGR’s Statement of Support. ESGR’s Statement of Support program provides a formal process for civilian employers to publicly proclaim their support for their employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserve and their families.

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